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## RIIFF ANNOUNCES THE SCHEDULE FOR ITS 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FESTIVAL

### New England's only Academy Award-qualifying film festival releases a star-studded line up of films and celebrity appearances

(Providence, R.I. • July 21, 2011) – **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** proudly announces the star-studded lineup for its 15<sup>th</sup> annual festival, running **Aug. 9 to 14** at **The Vets (formerly the VMA Arts & Cultural Center)** and other venues throughout Rhode Island. As **New England's only Academy Award-qualifying festival**, **RIIFF** takes filmgoers on the **Road to the Oscars**, giving audiences first looks at tomorrow's great films and insiders' access to the industry's hottest stars at nightly filmmakers' parties.

This year, **RIIFF** received a record 4,537 submissions from filmmakers representing more than 60 countries. After whittling down the talent-filled pool to just 195 films, **RIIFF** now announces the full schedule of screenings for its six-day festival. This year there are 18 world and 21 North American/United States premieres.

As an **Academy Award-qualifying** festival in the short film category, **RIIFF** is known for its world-class selection of short films. This year, **RIIFF** offers audiences a number of short film packages, grouping its diverse array of short films into themed packages, including: *Cinéma Ooh La La*, a collection of French films; *Cine ¡OLÉ!*, a collection of Spanish language films; *Reel Love Shorts*, a collection of romantic comedies; *Road to Hollywood*, a collection of short films with big star power; *Comedy Showcase*, a collection of side-splitting comedies; and *Student Academy Award Nominees*, a group of student films nominated or that have won **Academy Awards** in the student division.

Hollywood's brightest stars shine during **RIIFF's** festival lineup, with screenings across Providence at: **The Vets** 1 Avenue of the Arts, **The University of Rhode Island's Paff Theatre**, located on the University's Feinstein campus, 80 Washington St. and at the **Metcalf Auditorium Chace Center** at the Rhode Island School of Design, 20 North Main St.

This year's short films feature **Academy Award** winners and nominees, film and television stars and studio executives, including: **Rita Wilson**, **Chad Michael Murray** and **Anna Paquin** in *The Carrier* (USA); **John Hurt** in the world premiere of *Sailcloth* (UK); **Ed Asner** and **Mark Rydell** in the world premiere of *Good Men* (USA); **Anthony LaPaglia** in *In Loco Parentis* (Australia); **Tom Felton** and **Emelda Staunton** in *White Other* (UK); **Sarah Paulson** and **Wes Bentley** in *After School Special* (USA); **Seymour Cassel** and **Fionnula Flanagan** in *Pass the Salt, Please* (USA); **Melissa Leo** and **Peter Gerety** in *The Sea is All I Know* (USA); **Keira Knightly** and **Colin Firth** in *Steve* (UK) directed by **Rupert Friend**; **Bruno Ganz** in the world premiere of *Brot [Bread]* (Germany) directed by **Ahmet Tas**; **Adam Arkin**, **Clifton Collins Jr.**, **Carla Gugino** and **Jesse Spencer** in *Tell-Tale* (UK); **Peter Cattaneo** directs *Bunce* (UK) and **Terry Gilliam** directs *The Wholly Family*; and **Martin McCann** stars in *Hollow* (UK).

Along with the many other stars anticipated in attendance, **RIIFF** is pleased to welcome **Paul Sorvino** to the festival as recipient of **RIIFF's Lifetime Achievement Award** – the international festival's most prestigious honor. **Sorvino**, who starred in *Goodfellas*, *Romeo and Juliet* (1996) and *The Cooler*, has had a colorful career playing multi-faceted and intriguing characters in hit movie and television shows. **Sorvino** will be present at a special reception on **Aug. 11** at Federal Hill's newest restaurant, **D'Vine on the Hill**, 145 Spruce St., Providence, from **5 to 6:30 p.m.** A portion of the \$30 ticket pays for admittance to the 7:15 p.m. screening of *Lily of the Feast*, the latest film in which Sorvino stars, shown at **The Vets**, 1

**Avenue of the Arts, Providence.** Sorvino will be honored with **RIIFF's** Lifetime Achievement award preceding the film's screening.

This year, **RIIFF** is screening a rich selection of documentary films, giving audiences in-depth and intimate looks into the lives of some truly amazing characters. **RIIFF** is screening: the world premiere of *A Balloon for Allah* directed by Nefise Özkal Lorentzen; *Boys of Bonneville* directed by Curt Wallin; *Code Name: Blast Off* directed by Tristan Rudat, the filmmaker son of Rhode Island's own Hasbro toy designer Ron Rudat who masterminded the creation of the popular G.I. Joe franchise; *Fambul Tok* directed by Sara Terry; *Go There Once, Be There Twice* directed by Gil Bettman; *Hand Held* directed by Don Hahn; *Incident in New Baghdad* directed by James Spione; *Marathon Boy* directed by Gemma Atwal; *The Pipe* directed by Risteard O Domhnaill; *With Great Power: The Stan Lee Story* directed by Will Hess and featuring the stars of the many movies spawned by the all-time great comic book superhero creator; and *Holy Rollers: The True Story of Card Counting Christians* directed by Bryan Storkel.

**RIIFF** is also screening a selection of intriguing and captivating feature films, including: *As If I'm Not There* directed by Juanita Wilson; the world premiere of *Brief Reunion* directed by John Daschbach; *Broken Kingdom*, whose director **Daniel Gillies** and lead actor **Rachael Leigh Cook** will be in attendance for the screening; *Fort McCoy* whose directors **Kate Connor** and **Michael Worth** will be in attendance for the film's screening; *Happy New Year* directed by K. Lorrel Manning, whose full cast will be in attendance for the film's screening, and which will be followed by a post-screening discussion panel centered around the film's topic – Iraq War veterans returning home with Post-traumatic stress disorder; *Montana Amazon: The Adventures of Dunderheads* directed by D.G. Brock, starring **Olympia Dukakis**, **Haley Joel Osmert**, **Alison Brie**; *Take Me Home* whose director **Sam Jaeger** will be in attendance for the film's screening; *Answers to Nothing* directed by Matthew Leutwyler, and starring **Dane Cook**; *A Wake* directed by Penelope Buitenhuis; and *What Happens Next* directed by Jay Arnold, and starring **Wendie Malick**.

As a film festival that takes audiences on the **Road to the Oscars**, **RIIFF** does not just show today's top independent films – it gives its audience the full film festival experience. **RIIFF** is holding nightly filmmakers' parties at popular restaurants and lounges across Providence. Open to the public for \$10, these swanky celebrations give guests the exclusive chance to rub shoulders with industry professionals and top international talent, letting partygoers talk shop with visionary filmmakers and actors. All parties start at 10 a.m. and are being held during the festival at: **Sidebar Bistro**, 127 Dorrance St. #3B, on Wednesday; **Bravo Brasserie**, 123 Empire St., on Thursday night; **Pot Au Feu**, 44 Custom House St., on Friday night; and a special "Sweet Success" closing night celebration held at **Temple Downtown**, 120 Francis St.

**RIIFF** proudly announces its **Providence Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Film Festival**, a cinematic sidebar of the main festival. In its 12<sup>th</sup> year, the **GLBT Film Festival** features compelling dramas, comedies, and documentaries centered around the GLBT community. Funded in part by a grant from The Rhode Island Foundation's Equity Action fund, the GLBT Film Festival will hold the majority of its screenings at **Bell Street Chapel**, 5 Bell St., Providence, from **Wednesday Aug. 11** through **Sunday Aug. 14**. The festival kicks off with an opening night filmmaker reception at **Bell Street Chapel**. Some standout films from the GLBT films include: *Judas Kiss*, directed by J.T. Tepnapa and starring adult industry star Brent Corrigan; *The Green* directed by Steven Williford; *Sedona* directed by Tommy Stovall; *The Stranger In Us* directed by Scott Boswell; and *Walk a Mile in My Pradas* directed by Joey Sylvester.

To compliment its selection of great films, **RIIFF** is holding a number of special events and featured screenings during its six-day run.

In **RIIFF** tradition, the festival will hold a large opening night ceremony, held at **The Vets** on **Tuesday, Aug. 9**. It all starts at **7 p.m.** with opening remarks from **RIIFF** and the screenings of some of the festival's top short films, including: *Henry*, directed Yan England; *Sailcloth* directed by Elfar Adalsteins; *Tooty's Wedding* directed by Frederic Casella; *The Wholly Family* directed by Terry Gilliam; *Brot [Bread]* directed by Ahmet Tas; *Cataplexy* John Salcido; and *La Historia de Siempre (The Same Old Story)* directed by Jose Luis Montesinos. Right after the screenings, audiences are invited to join **RIIFF** and its visiting filmmakers for a celebration of film, with complimentary food and drinks provided by some of Rhode Island premier restaurants. Tickets, which are good for both entry into the opening night film screenings and the following after party, are \$25.

Another staple of the festival, the **ScriptBiz Screenwriters' Workshop** will be held **Wednesday, Aug. 10** in downtown Providence. For an entry fee of \$85, emerging screenwriters can hone their skills, bouncing ideas off of and learning from seasoned industry professionals. This year's theme, "From Page to Screen," takes screenwriters through the entire writing process, with workshops on screenwriting, pitching a script and the "business of screenwriting." Featured panelists include award-winning screenwriter Chris Sparling (*Buried*) and award-winning playwright and screenwriter Buzz McGlaughlin (*Sister Calling My Name*), among others. The daylong workshop runs from **10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.** Applications for the workshop are available at **RIFilmFest.org**.

**RIIFF** rocks into the weekend. First, on **Aug. 12**, RIIFF presents the North American premiere of **Bob Marley: The Making of a Legend**, a documentary film comprised of rare "lost footage" of Marley, shown for the first time in 30 years. The \$10 screening takes place at **Root's Café**, 276 Westminster St., Providence, at **5 p.m.** Later that evening, RIIFF is holding a special outdoor screening of the feature documentary *Everyday Sunshine: The Story of Fishbone*, directed by Chris Metzler and Lev Anderson, and a performance by local folk/rock band The Mighty Good Boys. Held at **Grant's Block**, 252 Westminster St., Providence, home of **Movies on the Block**, the event begins at **7 p.m.** when The Mighty Good Boys take the stage. At sundown, the film projector warms up and *Everyday Sunshine* screens. The event is free and open to the public. As a special offer from **RIIFF**, all in attendance get a free wristband, good for admission into any of the festival's closing day and night films.

On Wednesday, Aug. 10, festival-goers will be treated to the world premiere of the feature documentary *Family Band The Cowsills Story*, directed by Louise Palanker and Ian Broyle, which chronicles the storied career of Newport, R.I.'s own world-famous singing family band from the 1960s. Following the screening of the film, members of the Cowsills will be giving a long-awaited reunion performance on the main stage at **The Vets**. The show promises to be as memorable for the audience as it will be for the Cowsills, who have not performed together in many years. Tickets, good for both the screening and the Cowsills' performance, are \$15.

Tickets for all **RIIFF** screenings and events, including all-inclusive festival passes, are available online at **RIFilmFest.org** and are available at all venues.

For a full list of film synopses, actor listings and trailers, please see the **Festival Genius** application at **RIFilmFest.org**

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#### **ABOUT THE FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

The **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. This confluence of art and commerce brought together celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and audience members in record numbers last year. Ranked as one of the top-12 festivals in the United States, **RIIFF** is one of 65 festivals worldwide that is a qualifying festival for the **Academy Awards** through its partnership with the **Academy of Motion Pictures Arts & Sciences**. For more information on the festival, please visit [www.RIFilmFest.org](http://www.RIFilmFest.org).

For more information about this year's **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival**, running **Aug. 9 to 14** at The Vet (formerly Veterans memorial Auditorium), please visit our website at [www.RIFilmFest.org](http://www.RIFilmFest.org) or call us at **401.861.4445**.